

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011034

NODIS

FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 1534 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV
JAN 14.

QUOTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 01534

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-TEXT (PARA 7 LINE 3 ADDED)

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR EG IS US

SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING

REF: ATHERTON/EILTS TELECONS

1. FOLLOWING FIRST REF TELECON, I CONTACTED VP MUBARAK
ON SECURE LINE TO BRIEF HIM ON STATE OF PLAY RE AGENDA.

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I RECALLED OUR PROPOSED AGENDA WHICH I HAD GIVEN TO
SADAT IN ASWAN AND MY SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS TO MUBARAK
THAT, BECAUSE OF ISRAELI OBJECTIONS, WE WERE SEEKING TO
SIMPLIFY STILL MORE OUR PROPOSAL. (I HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY
BEEN AUTHORIZED TO DISCLOSE SIMPLIFIED REFORMULATION, '
SO I DID SO FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS EVENING IN TELECON.)
I THEN TOLD HIM PROBLEM WHICH HAS ARISEN WITH RESPECT

ITEM B AND MENTIONED OUR REFORMULATION AND THAT OF DAYAN. NEITHER HAD BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO BEGIN, WHO HAD COME UP WITH FOUR ALTERNATIVES TO HANDLE ITEM B. I WENT THROUGH THESE ALTERNATIVES AS I WAS ABLE TO TAKE THEM DOWN FROM TELECON.

2. I TOLD HIM THAT, AS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED EGYPTIANS, THE SECRETARY DOES NOT WANT TO WASTE HIS TIME AT JERUSALEM DISCUSSING AGENDA. INSTEAD HE WANTS TO GET RIGHT INTO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. I ASKED MUBARAK TO CHECK OUT THE FOUR ALTERNATIVES IMMEDIATELY WITH SADAT. IF ANY ONE EXCEPT THE SECOND PART OF THE LAST, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE AGENDA TO BE THE FIRST ITEM OF DISCUSSION WHEN JERUSALEM MEETING CONVENES, IS ACCEPTABLE TO SADAT, FINE. IF NOT, THE SECRETARY WOULD BE PREPARED TO POSTPONE HIS DEPARTURE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE AGENDA HAS BEEN DEVISED IF THIS DOES NOT EMBARRASS SADAT. I EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE SECRETARY DOES NOT WANT TO ENGAGE IN STERILE AGENDA TALKS AT JERUSALEM.

3. ALTHOUGH MUBARAK HAD OUR ORIGINAL DRAFT AGENDA BEFORE HIM, I HAD SOME DIFFICULTY IN GETTING BEGIN'S FOUR ALTERNATIVES ACROSS TO THE VP. IN THE END, HOWEVER, HE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS INVOLVED AND UNDERTOOK TO CHECK WITH SADAT AT ONCE.

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4. HE CALLED ME BACK SHORTLY AFTERWARDS TO SAY HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH SADAT. SADAT FINDS ALL FOUR OF BEGIN'S ALTERNATIVES UNACCEPTABLE REPEAT UNACCEPTABLE. SADAT IS IN TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SECRETARY THAT THE JERUSALEM TALKS NOT BEGIN WITH STERILE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHAT THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING SHOULD BE. HE WANTS THE SECRETARY TO KNOW THAT IT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT EMBARRASS HIM IF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP IS POSTPONED UNTIL THE AGENDA IS AGREED UPON.

5. MUBARAK INDICATED THAT SADAT ALSO ASKS THAT WE MAKE A "DECLARATION" TO THE EFFECT THAT EGYPT HAD PROPOSED AN AGENDA, ISRAEL HAD DONE SO AND USG HAD PUT FORTH A NEUTRAL, COMPROMISE PROPOSAL BASED ON THE COMMON ELEMENTS BUT ISRAEL REFUSED. EGYPT IS NOT READY TO NEGOTIATE AN AGENDA AT THE JERUSALEM TALKS.

6. ONCE USG STATEMENT MADE, GOE WILL ISSUE A SIMILAR ONE. IT WILL ALSO POSTPONE SENDING THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TO JERUSALEM UNTIL THE AGENDA ISSUE IS RESOLVED.

7. MUBARAK THEN MENTIONED ANOTHER SUBJECT. HE CLAIMED THAT SADAT HAD HEARD A STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER YESTERDAY TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF TREATIES WERE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN EGYPT, ISRAEL AND JORDAN REMAIN UNDER EGYPTIAN, JORDANIAN OR UN JURISDICTION. SADAT WANTS PRESIDENT CARTER TO KNOW THAT HE IS NOT READY TO ACCEPT ANY ISRAELI CIVILIAN OR MILITARY PRESENCE ON "OUR LAND". EILTS
UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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